

March 17, 2015

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the Town of Bedford, Virginia, from the March 10, 2015, regular meeting was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 5:30 p.m., March 17, 2015.

Members present: Mayor Robert T Wandrei; Councilman Tim Black; Councilman Robert D. Carson; Councilman Stacey L. Hailey; Vice Mayor Steve C. Rush; Councilman Beckham A. Stanley; and Councilman James A. Vest

Members absent: None

Staff present: Town Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; Town Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher

The purpose of the meeting was a work session on the proposed Town budget for FY 2015-16.

Members of Council reviewed the proposed budget, asked questions of the staff, and discussed various items.

Councilman Stanley questioned the amount of compensation that Council will be paid. There was a brief discussion.

Councilman Stanley moved that the compensation for Council go back to \$22,500 for the FY 2015/16 budget. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilman Vest moved that Council freeze all hiring for the budget year 2015-2016, with the exception of the advertised position for the Director of Public Services and any position that needs to be filled by the loss of any current Town employees.

Mayor Wandrei said the motion was out of order as Council was dealing with the Police Department.

Councilman Vest changed his motion to the following: that Council freeze all hiring in the Police Department for the budget year 2015-2016 to the current members of that department with the exception that if anyone who is currently employed leaves the Town's employ, that person can be replaced. The motion died for lack of a second.

The Mayor declared a ten minute recess from 6:40 p.m. until 6:50 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding the proposed budget.

Council reviewed and discussed the budget requests by outside agencies. It was the consensus of Council to include the following in the proposed budget:

- Bedford Chamber of Commerce \$ 2,500
- Bedford Lifesaving & First Aid Crew 10,000
- Bedford Main Street, Inc. 30,000 (payable in semi-annual installments - at which time Council will require a review)

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- Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library 7,500
- Bedford Ride Program 8,500
- National D-Day Memorial Foundation 9,000
- Wharton Bower Center for the Arts 10,000 (with matching State Grant of \$5,000)
- Wharton Gardens Memorial Foundation 6,000
(Councilman Beck abstained)

Vice Mayor Rush moved that the real estate tax rate be increased by two cents. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black.

Discussion ensued. The Mayor said this motion was just to give the Town Manager the guidance to adjust the budget based upon a two cent increase on the tax .

The motion was then voted upon carried by a roll call vote:

Councilman Black	aye
Councilman Carson	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Vice Mayor Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	nay
Mayor Wandrei	aye

Councilman Stanley moved that Council open discussion for the four percent increase in electric rates in the proposed budget. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilman Vest moved that Council leave the (electric) rate as it currently stands and review it at the end of the first quarter.

Mayor Wandrei explained that the electric rate can be changed at any time after the necessary public hearing is held.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Black.

Discussion ensued about reviewing the electric rates on a monthly basis.

The motion was then voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Carson	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Vice Mayor Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Councilman Black	aye
Mayor Wandrei	aye

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Councilman Stanley said that Gunnoe's Sausage is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and asked for a resolution commending the business.

Mayor Wandrei adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. until Monday, March 23, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Hall for a budget work session.